

In the Claims

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

1 ~~5~~. (Currently Amended): A method for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising the steps of:

segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each of the plurality of print engines
5 of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of a the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system; and

re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

2 ~~6~~. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim ~~5~~, wherein the step of detecting comprises the steps of:

reading an error status signal generated by a print engine;

interrupting the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job in
5 which the error status signal was generated; and

releasing the print engine from the virtual printer system in which the error condition occurred.

3 ~~7~~. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim ~~6~~, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

attaching a separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

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4/ §. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 3/7, wherein the step of defining comprises the step of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job as the unprinted part of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job including the page of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job whereupon the error occurred.

5/ §. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 4/8, wherein the step of attaching comprises the steps of:

creating a separator page associated with the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

attaching the separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

6/ §. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 5/9, wherein the step of creating a separator page comprises the step of:

designating an additional page to be inserted in the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

7/ §. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 6/10, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

reconfiguring the virtual printer system if a second next print engine in the virtual printer system is not available;

printing the re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

assembling the pages of the print job printed after re-routing with the pages of the print job printed before re-routing.

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⁸ 12. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising:

a job stacking device for segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each of the plurality of print engines of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

a detector for detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of a the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system; and

a router for re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

⁹ 13. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ⁸ 12, wherein said detector comprises:

a reading device for reading an error status signal generated by a print engine;

an interrupt device for interrupting said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job in which said error status signal was generated; and

a device for releasing said print engine from said virtual printer system in which said error condition occurred.

¹⁰ 14. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ⁸ 12, wherein said router comprises:

a remainder determination device for defining said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job; and

an attaching device for attaching a separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

¹¹ 15. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ¹⁰ 14, wherein said remainder determination device is operable:

to define said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job as the unprinted part of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job

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including the page of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job whereupon said error occurred.

5 ¹² 16. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ¹⁰ 14, wherein said attaching device comprises:
a separator device for creating a separator page associated with said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job prior to said attaching device attaching said separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

¹³ 17. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ¹⁰ 14, wherein said attaching device comprises:
means for designating an additional page to be inserted in said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

5 ¹⁴ 18. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ⁸ 12, wherein said router comprises:
a configuring device for reconfiguring said virtual printer system if a second next print engine in said virtual printer system is not available;
a printer for printing said re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and
a collator for assembling said pages of said print job printed after after re-routing with said pages of said print job printed before re-routing.

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